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A

PROBABLE SCHEME

For putting

A FINAL STOP

TO THE

DISTEMPER

AMONG THE

HORNED CATTLE,

AND

Preventing the Ruin of FARMERS while
it continues.

In a LETTER to a MEMBER of PARLIAMENT.

Si quid novisti rectius istis
Candidus imperti :

H O R.

L O N D O N :

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S I R,

THE distemper of the horned cattle is a matter of so much consequence to the nation, that I cannot doubt but the importance of the subject will sufficiently plead my excuse for making this address to you.

It has now continued a very long time among us; vast numbers of cattle have been lost, and a great many farmers have been very much hurt and impoverished. And if it should go on to spread through the kingdom, and to rage to that degree which it has done lately in many parts, it must become a great and general calamity, formidable to all ranks and conditions of men. For if the farmers and graziers are ruined by the loss of their cattle, the landlords must fail of their rents, trade of all kinds must be greatly affected, the poor labourers must many of them want employment to earn their bread, and provisions of all kinds, except corn only, must be scarce and dear.

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And

And as the laws hitherto made, with a view to put a stop to this distemper, have not had the desired effect, so that we seem now to have even less prospect of getting rid of it than we had several years ago; I have taken the liberty to send you some thoughts I have had upon this subject, and to mention some alterations and additions which I have wished might be made to those laws, in hopes of rendering them more effectual.

The first alteration which I wish for, is in regard to the *one mile* clause; as that clause, tho' well designed, seems to me in its plain consequences, to tend rather to destroy than to save the cattle. For if all cattle that are within a mile of the distemper, both fat and lean, must remain where they are till the distemper is ceased at the farm where it first began, and at all others within the like distance where it may happen to come, and for forty days after, it is running the hazard of losing those beasts by the distemper, (and in some cases by starving too) and also of spreading the infection from them to others, nobody knows how far. Whereas, if cattle that are within a mile, (which may be as found as any in the kingdom) having had no com-
muni-

munication with the infected herd, might be removed as soon as ever the distemper appeared at that first farm, and before they could possibly be supposed to have received any infection; the fat ones to market, and the lean ones to other pastures: it would not only secure so many cattle from that infection reaching them, but also very probably make a stop in the progress of the distemper, by clearing all the adjacent lands of cattle, and leaving the infected herd to themselves. It might have a like effect in this case, by cutting off all communication, as blowing up a house or two has in preventing the desolation of a fire. But as mankind are not to be trusted to judge in their own cause, and we know from sad experience, that many bad men have (in defiance of the law) driven away and sold even infected beasts, not only to the injury of the buyers, but also to the hazard of all the country through which they passed, and of the neighbourhood of every place they were driven to; therefore it would not be right that any man should be at liberty to remove his cattle at pleasure, when the distemper is within a mile. What I wish for is only, that a power might be given to the

justices of the peace to grant a licence for such removal, when upon full examination of the case it shall appear to them, that it may be done with safety to the public. Such a power as this would provide a remedy against the inconveniences of this clause, would be a great relief to owners of cattle in all instances where a removal is reasonable, and would probably deter every one from attempting to remove in a clandestine manner. And it is to be hoped, that every justice of the peace would be as careful and impartial in discharging this trust, as magistrates of health ought to be in a time of the plague, in using the power committed to them for the good of the public. Nor does it seem possible, in either of these cases, for any general law to provide against all emergencies, in such manner as the public safety may happen to require.

Another thing I wish for is, to have the law about killing and burying the sick cattle effectually executed ; but with this alteration, that the owners should be paid the full value of such cattle. This law seems to be extremely well calculated to stop the distemper in any herd where it is begun, and of course to

to prevent its being conveyed to other herds. For, if a beast is killed and buried as soon as ever it is seized with the distemper, the further infection of the air and of the ground (which must otherwise necessarily ensue) from the breath, perspiration, excrements, and other discharges of the sick beast during the whole progress of the disease, is thereby prevented. Thus in the diseases of mankind, it is well known, that the small-pox, and other contagious distempers, are not near so infectious in the beginning as when they are come to their heighth. How often do we see, that one person of a family falls sick of the small-pox, and tho' the rest, having not had it, converse with and attend him at first, before they know what the disease is; yet upon his being removed out of the house as soon as the eruption appears, the whole family remains well? Whereas, if they had continued to attend during the whole illness, it is probable that very few of them, and perhaps none at all, would have escaped the infection. So if all sick beasts were to be as timely removed, might it not prove a like security to the rest of the herd? And if those beasts were to be killed and buried immediately

diately upon such removal, there could be then no further danger from them. But if they are suffered to live till the distemper is so far advanced, that the large and loathsome running at the nostrils, the abominable fœtid scouring, and other noxious discharges come on, the grounds where they are kept must be as undoubtedly infected, as a small-pox room in the highest virulence of that distemper. And if the grounds are once infected, who can tell how far, and by how many ways the infection may be conveyed from them to other grounds; besides what the current of the air can communicate to cattle at a distance? May it not happen from cattle breaking pasture, and coming into these grounds? May it not be carried by men walking through them to other fields? May not dogs carry it yet further, if, by rolling on the ground, they should daub their bodies with the venomous filth, and rub it off in other pastures at several miles distance? May it not be conveyed in the same manner by foxes and other animals, which ramble a great way in the night, unseen, and therefore unsuspected? And as some farmers have had their cattle seized with the distemper,

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per, when they could find out no way how they came by it ; when they had bought in no new stock, nor had their cattle had any known communication with any infected herd, neither was the distemper any where very near them : may it not be supposed that it was brought to them by some of those insensible ways ? Nor can there be any security to any man, whatever care he takes himself, while there are grounds thus infected. But if all cattle were to be killed in the very beginning of the distemper, before any of these noxious evacuations were come on, as there could be no grounds thus tainted, all these ways of propagating the distemper would be cut off.

The farmers, however, will not be prevailed upon to kill their cattle, as things stand at present. They disregard the law, and are only guided by their own interest, as they reckon it to be according to their calculation. They say the bounty is so small, that it is not worth their while ; and they rather choose to run the hazard for the sake of a few which recover, than to make sure of so much money as the bounty comes to by killing ; though that would be at the same time the best means

means to preserve the rest of their cattle. But thus they judge and act, though it seems plain that they often mistake their own interest : for it is highly probable, that, in many instances at least, they might save more of their herd sound and free from the distemper if they would kill as soon as any beasts are seized, and not let them live to infect the rest, than do now recover from it : besides that they might be paid for those they killed, and their grounds and buildings, as being little if at all tainted, would much sooner be fit to receive a new stock in the room of those which were killed. How many herds of cows might probably have been saved, if a new-bought suckling calf or two had been killed and buried as soon as ever they appeared to be the least out of order ? And suppose some had been killed by mistake, when their disorder was not *the distemper*, what great harm or loss would there have been in it ? What proportion does the value of a young suckling calf bear to that of a herd of cows ? Why then will any man run so great a hazard for such a trifle, when there is the least room to suspect any infection ? So also if a man has bought a new cow or

two,

two, and even after putting them to his herd, he should discover the first symptoms of the distemper upon them, is there not a probability, that by removing and killing these *immediately* he might save his old stock, and keep his farm free from infection? Or if he has bought a drove of cattle, which he has put into a pasture by themselves, and one or more of them should appear to be seized with the distemper, it does not follow that all of them are infected; but very possibly, if the sick are removed and killed immediately, many of the drove may prove to be sound, and continue well: though if all of them should be suffered to remain together, they would probably all of them have the distemper, by receiving the infection from one another. Thus, if a number of men were to pass together in a body in the way of infection, it is most likely some would receive it and others not. Some of them might be more exposed to the infection, or meet with effluvia which the others did not, or might be in a fitter disposition of body to receive infection than the rest. Let those men be separated, and it is highly probable from experience, that some of them will have that dis-

temper, and others not. On the contrary, if all of them should be lodged in the same hospital, and in one common ward, it is a small chance perhaps that any of them would escape it. The like reason holds with men and with cattle, in infectious distempers: but as cattle may be killed out of the way, it should seem probable, that an infectious distemper among them might sooner be got rid of than among men. And in the case of the cattle, we need not long hesitate, from fear of a mistake in applying that salutary rule of Ovid,

*Immedicabile vulnus
Ense recidendum, ne pars sincera trahatur.*

Therefore, I wish that the law about killing might be strictly enforced, and that the executing of it may not be left to the owners, but committed wholly to the care of inspectors: that these inspectors should be appointed and directed from time to time by the quarter-sessions: that they should be sworn to do their duty faithfully, both in killing and estimating the value of the cattle: and that they should be properly rewarded, in proportion to the time and trouble which
their

their office shall require, according to the state of the distemper in their several districts. To these inspectors all farmers and owners of cattle might be obliged to give notice, upon the first appearance of any signs of the distemper. Or even if they were to give notice as soon as any of their cattle were out of order (unless it was evidently a disease of another kind) it might be of great use; as the inspectors must be supposed to know the distemper better than any private farmer, especially one who has not had it before: for there have been too many instances where farmers have suffered greatly themselves, and hurt their neighbours very much, for want of knowing or suspecting the distemper in due time. And I wish the full value may be paid to the owners, because that will make them easy and willing to have their cattle killed; though even then they will be losers, for want of stock upon their lands for some time, in the room of those beasts which shall be killed. For the bounty of forty shillings a head is indeed but a small matter for such beasts as cost six, or seven, or eight pounds a-piece when lean, and ought to be worth ten or twelve when fat. Of such

cattle as these, the loss must come very heavy upon the owners; though indeed there are but a few of this size in comparison with the number of smaller ones. But be the cattle of more or less value, a sum of money which would ruin a great many farmers, would not be felt by the nation. How many have been ruined, or at least suffered greatly? How many more must have been ruined if their landlords had not been kind to them? How many little farmers, whose chief dependance is on their cattle, are in daily danger of ruin, if the distemper should come among them? For some landlords (especially those of the little farmers) cannot afford to be generous to their tenants, how much soever they may be inclined to it. And as it is a public concern, ought not the expence to be borne by the public? At least, what harm could there be in trying the experiment for one year? Who that has any regard for the good of his country, or rightly considers his own interest, would be unwilling to contribute his proportion? This would be a fair trial, how far killing the cattle in a *proper manner* can answer towards putting an end to the distemper; which we can hardly form
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any judgment about from those which have been hitherto killed, at least in these parts: for so far as I have been informed, most of them for which the bounty was paid were not killed *immediately*. The farmers used to wait to see which beasts could recover, and which of them (so far as they could judge) must necessarily die. Those which could live, they let live, because the beasts were worth more than the bounty. They killed none but such as they despaired of, and sometimes would not give them over till the beasts were just ready to expire, and had lived long enough to do almost all the mischief they could, in tainting the air and pastures: then they killed them and claimed the bounty for them, as the bounty was better than a dying beast, of which they could make no profit. That word *immediately*, though so very proper, and the chief design of the whole, was overlooked at first, in a great measure at least. And since it has been explained more strictly by a subsequent law, very few cattle, so far as I have heard, have been killed at all.

But the killing them immediately appears to me to be the most likely, if not the only human means left to put a stop to the distemper:

per: for as to a cure, it is not only contrary to law to attempt it, but I think there is very little room to hope for it from any remedies, after we have seen so many proposed and tried in vain. Nor do the appearances, upon opening the bodies of cattle that have died of it, afford us any prospect of success from medicines. I have heard indeed of but few instances of opening any cattle which have died of this present distemper, and those only at the beginning of it; but from the account of the distemper here in * 1714, and of those cattle which were then opened; and also from that given by Ramazzini †, professor of physic at Padua, of the distemper in Italy in 1711, where the opening was under the inspection of two famous professors of anatomy; I think it appears, that our present distemper is very nearly, if not altogether the same with those in the external symptoms: and if so, it seems probable, that if we were to make a further search by opening, it would be found to be the same within; and therefore, that

* See Philosophical Transactions.

† See his oration on this subject, which was pronounced before the university, and dedicated to the doge of Venice.

we have no reason to hope for more assistance from art than they could find. We were so happy in the year 1714, as to lose but a few cattle *, and by timely killing to get rid of the distemper in about six months. Whereas in Italy it continued for some years, and raged to such a degree, as to destroy almost all the cattle in the territories of Rome, Venice, and some other states of that country. It was so very mortal there, that only here and there one recovered; and those few rather by chance, says Ramazzini, than by the help of medicines: and though the distemper has been less fatal with us, so that many cattle have recovered in the whole; yet has their recovery been owing to medicines, and not rather to their having the distemper only in a small degree? Do not those which have it but slightly recover, whether they take any medicines or not? And is there any one of all the remedies that have been contrived now in eight years, which can be depended upon

* There died in Middlesex, Essex, and Surry, near 6000, of which the chief part belonged to the cow-keepers about London; and there was but little of the distemper in any other counties so far as I can find.

as of any service where the disease is violent? Several of them we know, when first used, were cried up as infallible; which, upon further trial, have been laid aside as useless at least, if not hurtful. Bleeding, and the cooling method have been used without success; and hot medicines have been given by the cow-doctors and others to as little purpose. Tar and tar-water, jesuits-bark, oil, brine, sea-water, and even the famous powder of a certain physician, with a long list of other prescriptions, have all been found to fail. Nor has good nursing, keeping them warm in houses well littered with straw, and giving them warm mashes and soft nourishing liquors, succeeded any better. Nay, so far from it, that, in some herds at least, fewer cattle have recovered which have been thus managed, and carefully attended day and night, than of those which have been left to themselves in the open air. So that I think upon the whole, we may say with Virgil, in his description of a plague among cattle, *Quæsitæque nocent artes*. And it seems to be time to add with him, *cessere magistri*; and to give up all thoughts of medicines, at least till this method
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of killing has been fairly tried. For every new remedy that is proposed and tried, must prolong the infection of the air in that place, and of the grounds in which the cattle are kept; and if it fails, as all have hitherto done, must endanger the spreading of the distemper yet further.

Altho' it is granted, that some cattle have the distemper in a favourable manner, and recover, yet let no one be any longer shocked at the thoughts of killing; since the design of it is to stop the distemper, and to save a multitude by killing a few. For may not those cattle, which have it favourably, communicate it to others, which may have it in the most desperate manner; as we see in the small-pox among men? In this we are justly afraid of infection from the most kindly sort, knowing that it may produce the most malignant and fatal kind, according to the constitution it meets with, and other concurrent circumstances. And what is the value of all the cattle, which would recover in a year, or in several years, (and the question can be only about these, not about those which would die) when compared with a prospect of putting an end to the distemper?

The number which have recovered in any one year could hardly be missed in the nation. And if only a part of them had been killed, it might possibly have preserved the rest from being seized at all, as well as vast numbers which have died. And what is the expence, of paying for as many as have ever recovered in any one year, if it is to be borne by the public ?

If this method of killing all the cattle, as soon as the first symptoms of the distemper appear, should be put in practice, it is to be hoped, that no farmers or owners of cattle would disobey the laws ; which at present, it is notorious, are too little regarded. There would then be no temptation to bad men, to sell or drive infected beasts ; as they would know, they should be paid the value of them, if killed according to law. And if any owners of cattle should neglect to give notice to the inspectors, for above twenty-four hours, after they had reason to suspect the distemper to be among their herd ; they would justly deserve to be excluded from the benefit, and to have their beasts killed without any allowance. Or if any should offer to sell any beasts from a suspected herd (except only such fat ones as

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appeared to be found, and were to be killed immediately, and within a mile) would not such persons deserve to be punished, and at the least as far as the value of such beasts? But if any man should presume to sell, drive, or remove any cattle, knowing them to be infected, or that the herd from which they were taken is infected; would not such a man deserve a much greater punishment, than any the law has yet appointed? If it was only cheating the buyers of so much money as should be paid for the cattle, this would be but petty villainy; but to sell infection knowingly, to be spread no body knows how far, is a crime that wants a name. Is not this crime to be compared to that of wilfully setting fire to a house or town? May not the consequences of selling such infected beasts (for no body can tell how far they may extend) be as bad or even worse, than from wilfully setting fire to a house, or a town? And ought not every honest man to be as industrious, in detecting and bringing to justice such villains as these, as he would be in taking a house-breaker, or in discovering an incendiary? How many instances have we had of the distemper being brought again

into this county, as well as many others (after it had ceased with us or them for a while) by droves of infected beasts, both fat and lean; and of its being propagated from one herd to another, to the destruction of great numbers of cattle? What havock has been made by one drove of sucking calves, which being brought to market, have been sold and dispersed among a great many farmers? Has not every farmer, who carried home a single calf, carried with it the infection to his herd of cows? And has it not been spread from them to the herds of other farmers, who bought no calves? Can these infected cattle be thus brought to market without a crime in some persons? And ought we not to endeavour to detect and punish the criminals?

How the money is to be raised to defray the expence of this scheme, I leave to the wisdom of the legislature, if they shall think it worthy of their consideration. But I may venture to tell you some thoughts I have had about it. I have thought of two kinds of tax, both so easy as to be almost insensible. The first is of one penny or two-pence in the pound upon all lands and tenements, &c. to be collected at the same time, and in the same man-

manner as the land-tax, and by the same persons, but without any fee or reward: and that the landlord should allow half of it, and the tenant pay half. The other is a tax of one shilling a year upon every ox, bull, cow, steer, and heifer; and this likewise to be divided equally between the landlord and the tenant, and to be collected in the same way. The money thus collected and paid to the receivers-general for the several counties, might be paid by them immediately, so far as it would go, to such claimants as should bring proper certificates from the quarter-sessions. And where there shall be no claimants, or not enough to take all the money, such unclaimed money might be paid into a proper office to be appointed for that purpose: and the justices at the quarter-sessions of every county, where the money raised shall not be sufficient to answer the demands, might be impowered to call for so much of it, as shall be wanted to pay the several remaining claimants. But if the money raised in all the kingdom shall not be enough to pay all the claimants, for that year, or for so long as it shall be thought proper to try this method; such deficiency might be made good by a fur-

further continuance of the same tax, so long as shall be necessary for that purpose and no longer, and only in such proportion of the tax as the deficiency shall require. And if we should be so happy as to succeed in putting an effectual stop to the distemper, and there should be any money left; then, after the distemper shall have ceased for two or three years throughout the kingdom, such overplus money might be divided, and paid to the respective treasurers of the several counties, in proportion to what each county paid of it; which would save the raising of so much money by the usual county-levies. And what landlord would grudge to pay four shillings and two-pence, or eight shillings and four-pence, for every hundred pounds a year; or six-pence a head for as many cattle as his tenants keep, towards insuring his tenants cattle, and in consequence his own rent? What tenant would think much to pay the same to have his cattle insured? How easy is the insurance, if it will answer? And that the sum proposed would be sufficient seems very probable. For though it may be said, that in some years many more cattle have had the distemper than this money could pay for; yet

yet it may be supposed, that if this method of killing had been practised, the spreading of the distemper might have been so much prevented, that but a small proportion of those beasts might have had it. But if ever there should be so many cattle seized with it in any one year, notwithstanding this method, it must be allowed by every one, that the calamity will then be so great, as to call for the most careful attention of the public, in order to contrive some more effectual scheme. If it should be objected, that it is hard upon the owners and occupiers of houses, or even of lands which are used only for the plough, to pay their share of a pound-tax: I answer, that it is a trifle, which can hurt no one from the highest to the lowest; that it is for the benefit of all ranks and degrees of men whatsoever; and therefore no one ought to grudge his proportion. For not only does the plenty or scarcity of provisions affect all, but the good or bad state of the farmers is of public concern. Thus a large exportation of corn is a public benefit, as it brings a great deal of money into the nation: for tho' the immediate advantage is to the farmers, yet the money circulates from them through all hands.

hands. And if the farmers are distressed by any calamity, they cannot suffer alone: their landlords must feel it too; and all trade, which depends upon the farmers or their landlords, must be affected by it. Therefore let no tradesman, either in the country or in London, grumble at his share of a pound-rate, towards promoting such a public good, in which he himself too is so much concerned. Let any one think, whether the land-owners and the farmers, (who must pay the most towards such a tax) will not have reason to complain if the whole is laid upon them; while others, who are to receive the benefit, and can as well afford their proportion, are excused. And as to ploughed farms, it is for the interest of their owners and tenants to have the distemper stopped; and that not only with regard to provisions, but because, if the distemper continues, many grazing lands must be turned to the plough, and of course corn must be the cheaper: besides that there are very few plough-farmers who do not keep some horned cattle, either for the use of the plough, or for milk, or both; and as the tax is so little, it is well worth their while to pay it, even to have a small number
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of cattle insured. In short, there is no condition of men, who are not liable to be unspeakably greater losers by the continuance of the distemper, than they can be by contributing to this tax. And tho' in the article of provisions we have not hitherto been much sensible of the effects of the distemper; yet, if it goes on, who can tell how soon we may perceive them more? Therefore my proposal is, to try to stop it in time; before the calamity arrives to such a degree as has been felt by other nations. Strong and dreadful is the account given by the before-mentioned Ramazzini, of the general consternation of people of all ranks in Italy on this occasion in 1711. *Mæret rusticana plebs, imo stupet attonita,----Mærorem dissimulare nequeunt cives, & nobiles viri, dum prædia sua, & villas, præcipuo ornatu, & patrimonio orbatas intelligunt, atque etiam vident. Tristatur, ac dolet plebs urbana, dum annonæ*, rerumque omnium, quæ ad victum spectant, caritatem brevi secuturam prænoscit. Nemo est igitur, quæcumque sit ejus conditio, qui damnum aliquod non sentiat, & graviora quoque non timeat.*

* A scarcity of corn is here mentioned, because, as you know, Sir, in Italy they ploughed chiefly, if not altogether, with oxen.

What I have hitherto said relates to stopping the distemper where it is. The next thing to be wished is, that so long as it does continue in any part of the kingdom, some more effectual means could be found out, to secure the lean cattle, as they come from the breeding countries, and the fat ones on the road to London, from receiving the infection by the way, and carrying it into the several parts to which they are driven. I mention fat beasts, because these must be kept in the fields about London till they are killed; and some of them, not being quite fat, have been often bought to be sent further into the country and fed longer: and by both these ways much damage has been occasioned by those called fat beasts brought to Smithfield; besides the infection they spread upon the road, and in their lodgings, in the way to London. With a view to prevent danger of this kind I have two proposals to make.

The first is, that a particular account should be sent from time to time to some person or persons to be appointed at London, from all places where the distemper shall happen to be, under a proper penalty upon the owners of the cattle and the parish officers for neglect:

lest: that these accounts should be printed in the Gazette; which all drovers should be required to observe, so as not to drive their cattle nearer to any infected places mentioned in any Gazette, than a certain limited distance, after such Gazette (being sent by public authority to every post-house and to every market-town in the kingdom) can by the course of the post come within their knowledge; but to change their road, and drive round about to avoid it, as often as there shall be occasion. By this means every drover from Scotland, Wales, and the breeding counties of England, would know every county, and every part of it, where the distemper shall be at the time of their setting out, and settle their rout accordingly; and likewise be informed upon the road of all the new places, where it shall be broke out after they began their journey. And this notice might be some satisfaction to the graziers and farmers who want to buy cattle; as they also could know where the distemper shall be at any time; whether in the road which that sort of beasts they want to buy should come; and, if so, might make enquiry what care the drovers have taken to shun it.

The second proposal for the security of drove cattle is concerning their feeding and lodging: that they should not be taken or put into any ground to feed or lodge, where any beasts have died of the distemper, or where any of their litter or dung has been left unburied, in less time than a year from the death of the last beast; or into any ground where sick beasts have been killed according to law, in less time than three months from the killing of the last beast; that they should not be fed with any hay or stover which has been near any infection, or with hay made from grass in which distempered cattle have been fed within six months before the mowing of such grass; and that a due penalty should be inflicted upon every offender in any of these particulars. It may be justly suspected, that many private farmers, who have had the distemper several times, have not been cautious enough in these respects upon their own grounds; and have therefore not only suffered themselves, but also exposed their neighbours to hazard and loss, by bringing a new stock too soon into the pastures, where their former cattle had died. And it is notorious, that, for want of proper

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care of this sort upon the public roads, great numbers of beasts, which came sound from the breeding countries, have taken the infection on the journey, and brought it into this and other counties, where it has soon after broke out upon them. If then the pastures and lodgings upon the roads are not taken care of, but remain infected from time to time, how can we expect to see an end of the distemper?

But if it should be thought, that drove cattle might be safely put into pastures, where the distemper has been within less time than what I have proposed: I will not say, that in no case it can be done. It will however be granted, that in the case of pastures upon the public roads it is proper to take a full time, in order to be as secure as possible. Therefore might it not be right, to forbid cattle being put sooner into such pastures, at least without a certificate from a justice of the peace, setting forth, that he is well informed of the premises, and satisfied that those pastures have not only been cleansed, either by feeding off the grass very bare with horses, hogs, and sheep, or by cutting and burning any grass which these may have left,
and

and by gathering up and burying or burning all litter, dung, &c. but also been well purified by rains, snow, floods, or frosts? Or might it not be still better, if all these lodgers of cattle were obliged to have a certificate yearly, (or oftener when occasion requires) by which it may appear to all drovers and others, who want to hire pasture, either that the distemper has not been at all in those lands, or else that they have been clear of it for such a time; and that their hay and stover are to the satisfaction of the justice free from infection? Would not certificates of this kind be at least as useful as many of those which are already required?

These thoughts, Sir, are laid before you from a sincere view to the good of the public: let the intention apologize for any mistake or inaccuracy you may observe in them. They are not offered as a complete scheme, but as hints for you to correct and bring to perfection.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant